

WATERLOO, IOWA  
COURIER

E. 49,684  
S. 50,107 1961

## CIA Should Not Be Watched Closely

SENATORS, always anxious to get into the act, have now proposed to set up a "watch dog" committee to watch over the Central Intelligence Agency. Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) has introduced the resolution for a such a committee.

While the faults of the CIA are difficult for the public to analyze, superficial evidence does indicate something wrong with the agency. Somebody, presumably the CIA, failed to alert President Eisenhower to the fact that Fidel Castro was a Communist sympathizer at the time of the Cuban revolution. And, while the responsibility of the CIA has not been fully established, there were obvious errors in the recent attempt of Cuban refugees to invade their homeland.

But of the things which may be wrong with CIA, we can't imagine a single one which could be corrected by having a Congressional "watch-dog" committee. Every other intelligence service in the world operates in virtually complete secrecy and CIA is already too much in the open to fulfill its functions properly. Supervision by a Congressional committee would inevitably mean more publicity.

In some situations, a Congressional committee can provide good liaison between the executive agency and the legislature. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy is an example.

But, even though the admission is seldom made, an intelligence agency is expected to carry out missions which the government can officially repudiate. But how could the government repudiate what an official Congressional committee had been supervising?

The investigative committee which President Kennedy has set up under

the leadership of Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., is the way to handle the problem. It probably is a futile suggestion, but Congress ought to stay out of the act.